(c) The institute is not directly under the Government of India.

(d) Government provides financial contribution to the institute commensurate with its task and our priorities.

***Statement***

*Restricted Funding to IRRI*

| Name of the Institute | Programme | Amount in US $ (Millions) 2005-06 | Amount in US $ (Millions) 2006-07 | Amount in US $ (Millions) 2007-08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IRRI | (a) Transgenics in Rice | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| | (b) Rice genomics | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| | (c) Biofortification of rice and breeding for abiotic stresses (salinity and moisture stress) New programme (This has been integrated into the new programme as stated below at d*) | | 0.2 | |
| | (d)* Breeding biofortified rice to combat micronutrient deficiencies. | | | 0.1 |

**Area under Agriculture**

2033.SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area covered in the country by agriculture;

(b) whether there has been any decline in the area covered under agriculture in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government has considered increasing the area under agriculture and raising more crops than at present keeping in view of the size of population and environmental dangers ahead; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The total agricultural land in the country in 2005-06 was 182.57 million hectares.

(b) Yes, Sir. The total agricultural land in the country in the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was 182.99 million hectares, 182.82 million hectares and 182.57 million hectares respectively, indicating a marginal decline.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has been implementing 'Integrated Wastelands Development Project (IWDP) Scheme' since 1989-90. The thrust of the scheme is on development of wastelands based on village / micro watershed plans and thereby increasing the area under agriculture. The Government has also launched several major initiatives including the National Horticulture Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and National Food Security Mission to increase agricultural production.

**Infrastructure for fishery sector**

2034.SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernize the infrastructure for fisheries sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the sector/areas for immediate modernization;

(c) the details of the estimated cost of modernization of the infrastructure, State wise and category-wise; and

(d) the steps taken for pathogen free shrimp seed and facilities for cleanliness and hygiene for export up to the requirement of European and other countries standard, in detail, State-wise and category wise, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) provide financial assistance and technical support to State Governments, Union Territories (UT), Port Trusts, Fisheries Corporations/ Federations, Fishermen Cooperatives etc. for development and modernization of infrastructure in the fisheries sector such as (i) construction of new fishing harbours and fish landing centres, (ii) modernization of existing fishing harbours and fish landing centres, (iii) establishment of post harvest and marketing infrastructure, (iv) setting up fish preservation and processing facilities, (v) establishment of hatcheries, (vi) acquisition of resource specific fishing vessels, (vii) construction of aquaculture ponds and (viii) development of reservoirs.

The estimated cost depends on scope, components and location of the project. The approval of the project and release of funds is based on the demands of beneficiary State, UTs, Port Trusts and other implementing agencies subject to viability of the project and overall budgetary allocation.

(d) The Government of India has initiated the following steps:

(i) Setting up a Multiplication Centre for Production of High Quality Specific Pathogen Fee (SPF) seed of Black Tiger Shrimp (Penaeus monodon) at Mulapolam village in Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh by National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) with technical support from M/s Moana Technologies, Hong Kong.